

SENATE RESOLUTION 93

By Southerland

A RESOLUTION supporting renewable energy.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) supports the development of distributed renewable energy generated by businesses and Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, TVA solicits input from its stakeholders through a variety of forums and is actively evaluating national best practices for application in the Valley; and

WHEREAS, TVA's Green Power Providers (GPP) program for small-sized residential and commercial distributed renewable energy operations was so popular and successful that it reached its capacity limit for 2013 by April of that year; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's growing solar industry requires consistent and sustained growth of renewable energy programs, in order to accurately plan for the future; and

WHEREAS, the installed solar capacity in the GPP program in the Valley has grown from less than 1 megawatt to 84 megawatts in the last four years; and

WHEREAS, TVA endeavors to add capacity in its solar programs in a thoughtful and deliberate manner that is equitable for all nine million residents in the Valley; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee residents wanting to install small renewable energy systems at their homes and businesses can do so by contacting their local power companies, ensuring these systems are interconnected in a safe and reliable manner, consistent with individual local power company processes and procedures; and

WHEREAS, TVA provides power to 155 municipal and electric membership distributor utilities, each with diverse system characteristics; and

WHEREAS, local power companies that operate in TVA's territory have the ability to create their own interconnection procedures, although more uniform interconnection procedures

would enable solar installers to better inform their customers about recommendations for interconnection; and

WHEREAS, TVA is in the process of developing, along with local power companies, a set of recommendations and best practices for grid interconnections; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's solar industry ranked twelfth in the nation in solar job growth last year, and ninth in green job production, largely as a result of TVA's solar programs; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that the Senate supports the right of Tennesseans to install renewable energy projects at their homes and businesses and urges TVA and Tennessee local power companies to facilitate interconnections for small renewable energy projects throughout the state with simple, uniform, safe, reliable, reasonable and fair interconnection procedures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Senate urges TVA and Tennessee local power companies to continue soliciting input from stakeholders, evaluating national best practices for application in the Valley, and providing support for the year-round development of distributed renewable energy systems installed by Tennesseans and businesses, with fair compensation for generation and encouragement of solar photovoltaic generation to provide the opportunity for Tennesseans and businesses to participate in renewable energy generation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Senate urges TVA and Tennessee local power companies to facilitate third party arrangements for solar photovoltaic generation so that all Tennesseans can have the opportunity to have low cost fuel-free electricity and energy independence through renewable solar energy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chief Clerk of the Senate is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Chairman of the TVA board of directors, the Executive Director of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority, and to the Chief Executive Officer of TVA with this final clause omitted from such copy.